

DOCKET NO: 287440US41PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
Jean-Luc COULON, et al. : EXAMINER: COZART, JERMIE E.  
SERIAL NO: 10/574,285 :  
FILED: MARCH 6, 2007 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3726  
FOR: A TUBULAR COMPONENT :  
PROVIDED WITH MUTUALLY  
ORIENTED THREADED  
ELEMENTS, AND A METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING IT

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed May 13, 2010, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, and list Claims 13-20 as readable thereon. Applicants reserve the right to present claims directed to the non-elected inventions in a divisional application, which shall be subject to the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121.<sup>1</sup>

MPEP § 1893.03(d) states (emphasis added):

The basic principle is that an application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, that applicant would have a right to include in a single application only those inventions which are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

A group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. The

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<sup>1</sup> "A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made ... shall not be used as a reference ... against a divisional application." See also MPEP 804.01.